

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Nov. 14 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Reduced gate hours for Veterans Day weekend

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Veterans Day holiday.

On Nov. 9 the Harford Gate (Route 22) in APG North will close 10 p.m., Friday, and the Wise Road Gate in APG South will close 8 p.m. on Friday.

Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov.

The Maryland Gate in APG North and the Magnolia Road Gate in APG South will be open throughout the holiday period.

90th Anniversary **Open House to** feature 2012 briefing, video

Everyone is invited to attend the premier of the Aberdeen Proving Ground 90th Anniversary video and hear an APG 2012 briefing by Garrison commander Col. Jeffrey Weissman to begin the day's Open House celebration, Friday Nov. 9.

Everyone must be seated in the Post Theater by 8:50 a.m. for a 9 a.m. start. The program will conclude at

For more information, call Sheryl Speerstra, 410-306-4522.

Motorists: Road construction alert

Motorists are advised that road construction is ongoing in two restricted areas of APG North-portions of Mulberry Road from the area of Gate 13 (the main entrance to the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center) to the railroad tracks, and in the vicinity of buildings 437 and 439.

Road work is expected to last until Nov. 16.

For more information, Hardwick, call Michael 410-306-2305.

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grave tended by APG group

Ordnance Museum honors World War II veterans

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**

After 62 years, members of a field artillery unit that distinguished itself in France during World War II reunited in Baltimore then gathered at Aberdeen Proving Ground for a historic dedication ceremony

Sept. 17 and 18. Tom Sorkness, who's late father Jerrold T. Sorkness, was a field lineman for Battery C, the storied 515th Field Artillery Battalion, organized the reunion after more than five years of tireless research into the unit and its surviving members.

The program's guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Frank D. Turner III, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.

Turner said that he was "honored and humbled" to address the veterans.

"I have watched with great pride as our country honors its veterans over the past two decades." Turner said.

He commented on the significant milestones" of the World War II and Korea conflicts and said he recently visited the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., calling it "moving and beautiful."

He said he thought it was appropriate that the memorial



caption

sits between the Washington and Lincoln memorials.

"George Washington believed that we should have a small standing Army and be able to spirit of our forefathers and you "It lives in today's Army which call up the militia, and that's what you did," Turner said. "The

responded.

nation called you in the same than a memorial," Turner said.

is the best we have ever had. "Your legacy is much more The example you set is the val-See 515TH, page 2

APG holds Army Covenant signing

YVONNE JOHNSON

APG News Aberdeen Proving Ground leaders and Families will formally sign the new U.S. Army Family Covenant, 6 p.m. at the

APG North Recreation Center Nov. 8. The event will be simulcast to the APG South Recreation Center.

The ceremony marks APG's part of the Family Covenant campaign endorsed by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston, during the campaign kickoff at Fort Knox, Ky., Oct. 17.

The covenant is a direct response to feedback from Army Families. It represents a \$1.4 billion commitment in 2008 to improve quality of life for Army Families. It is a commitment by Army leadership to redouble efforts to appreciate the challenges Families face and to act on their suggestions with vigor.

"I saw what we were asking of our Soldiers and our Families over the last several years," said Gen. Casey at the Association of the United States Army convention in October. "It struck me that the best wasn't good enough," he said. "We have not until this point, treated Families as the readiness issue that they are.

"We recognize what it takes to be an Army Family and that our Soldiers draw great strength from their Families," he said. "The welfare of Army Families is increasingly important to all of us, and the Army is committed to building a partnership with Families."

The Army Family Covenant says that Soldiers' strength comes from their Families, and it pledges to provide for and support those Families by increasing the accessibility and quality of healthcare, improving Soldier and Family housing and standardizing and funding Family programs and services.

The covenant also says the Army will ensure excellence in schools, youth services and childcare and expand education and employment opportunities for Family members.

"All of these are important issues for Family members," said Sheila Casey, Gen. Casey's wife, who has traveled around the world with the general and spoken to hundreds of Family members and Family readiness leaders about their experiences and needs.

"Families are feeling the strain and effects of six years of war," she said. "They're stressed and they're stretched but they still are amazingly resilient."

Preston said that quality of life is one of the important factors to keeping Soldiers in the Army.

"And it's more than just a Soldier's pay, it's medical, dental, housing, barracks for the single Soldiers, youth services, education; it's the things we provide for all the Families," he said.

The Family Covenant states:

"We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Sol-

diers comes from the strength of their Families.

- We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.
- We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.
- We are committed to building a partnership with Army families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by:

- Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services;
- · Increasing accessibility and qual-
- ity of health care; Improving Soldier and Family
- housing; • Ensuring excellence in schools,

youth services and child care; • Expanding education and employ-

ment opportunities for Family members.' "The Army Family Covenant renews the Army's commitment to the quality

of life and services provided to Sol-

diers and their Families," said Col.

Jeffrey Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. The entire APG community-Soldiers, civilians and Family members-is invited to come celebrate the important contributions of Army Families and the

commitment to keep the Army Family healthy, ready and Army Strong. For more information, call Regina

Dannenfelser, director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, 410-306-4521.

APG South gate closure extended

The APG South gate (Route 24) will remain closed until 6 a.m., Sunday,

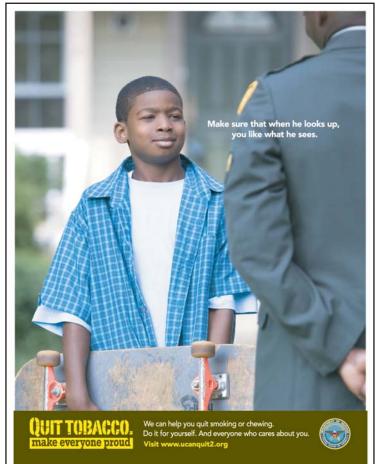
Unexploded ordnance screening and removal efforts have uncovered burial pits that are of concern to the APG safety and environmental staff.

"In the interest of public safety, this area must be properly cleared and cleaned up," said Robert Krauer, director of Law Enforcement and Security.

The Magnolia Road Gate (Route 152) will remain open 24 hours a day. Due to the area configuration, traffic patterns will be different from the Route 24 gate. In order to support visitor and commercial vehicle traffic, the Magnolia Gate will be designated for inbound traffic only from 6 to 9 a.m. each workday, similar to current Route 24 gate daily operations.

The Wise Road gate (Route 755) will remain the same and will be restricted to government ID holders only. Wise Road gate hours are 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

CFC organization offers smokers unique opportunity



American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society urges all smokers who plan to quit using tobacco products to visit the organization's Web site, www.smokefreeyou.org.

The site was launched in 2006 for the first time and proved to be a success in helping adults quit using tobacco products while also engaging visitors to learn how they can contribute to smoke-free legislation in workplaces, restaurants and bars.

This year, the society hopes to double the number of visitors to the site as part of this year's American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout scheduled for Nov.15.

"The site accomplishes two goals -- we can help adults looking to quit smoking by connecting them to our vast resources of smoking cessation information, and at the same time, we can continue our fight against tobacco on

our states," said Dana Martin, phone-based online communications director for the ACS.

For people interested in quitting tobacco use, the Web site provides a wealth of resources and information to help them quit. For those who want to get involved in the fight against tobacco, the Web site also provides information about the current efforts such as eliminating smoking in restaurants and workplace settings as well as other legislative opportunities to make communities smoke-free.

Studies show 41 percent of the estimated 45.4 million Americans who smoke have tried to quit for at least one day in the past year. This year on Nov. 15, smokers who want to quit are urged to visit www. smokefreeyou.org or call the American Cancer Society Quitline at 1-800-ACS-2345 to make their personal plan

The Society Quitline is a the legislative front in each of clinically proven, free tele-

program that is available in 12 states and the District of Columbia as well in over 75 businesses and health plans nationwide. Quitline staff have provided support to more than 280,000 smokers since its inception in 2000. Studies have shown that more than 40 percent of people who were contacted six months after completing the Quitline program remained smoke-free, which puts the society's quit rates among the highest in the industry.

American Cancer Society researchers in 2006 reported that reductions in smoking account for about 40 percent of the decrease in cancer death rates among men between 1991 and 2003, and have prevented at least 146,000 cancer deaths during that time. Although lung cancer incidence and death rates have declined overall, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death

See CFC, page 14

Vietnam documentary makes Maryland premier in Bel Air

YVONNE JOHNSON

When documentary filmmaker, Larry Cappetto, first visited Maryland to premier his World War II film, 'Lest They Be Forgotten' in 2006, he was so impressed with the veterans he met in Harford County that he returned a few months later to record their experiences for his next film.

On Sept. 12, the latest film in the 'Lest They Be Forgotten' series, 'Vietnam Remembered,' made its Maryland debut at the Amoss Center of Performing Arts in Bel Air.

Sponsored by the McComas Funeral Home Family, which also hosted Cappetto's interview sessions with local veterans, the program included remarks by Cappetto, Ed Kreiner, chairman of the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs and Howard McComas IV. Alan Walden of WBAL 1090-AM, was the program's emcee.

Cappetto said that it is always an amazing experience to chat with veterans and hear their stories.

"I always ask 'what does freedom mean to you," Cappetto said. "One gentleman told me, 'I don't know because I've never been without it."

He said he hopes his work is seen as a service to the country.

"I never had an opportunity to serve, and this is as close as I can get to it," Cappetto said. "It's been a delight to honor the heroes of this country. I hope my film brings out more positive pictures of who the Vietnam veteran was."

"All Vietnam veterans seem to have in com-

with," said former Army 1st Lt. Lee Alley, author of the book 'Back From War: Finding Hope & Understanding in Life After Combat.'

'This is one reason Larry's film is so important," Alley said. "We as veterans must share our stories. We have to let our wives and children know that we were there, and let them have the pride in us that we have in each other as veterans."

McComas said that "everyone should take the time to thank [Cappetto] for the work that he has done and the work that he is doing."

"I know they [Vietnam veterans] weren't welcomed back, but when you leave here tonight, if you leave with nothing else, it should be with a strong sense of our saying 'thank you'," McComas said.

With live action footage of firefights in the jungles of Vietnam, the film featured personal recollections of veterans who served there in the infantry as well as in support operations as medical evacuation and signal personnel.

The veterans told their stories in their own words, with no narration or editorial comment. Some became overcome when they talked about friends they lost, and nearly all shed a tear or two when they talked about the flag and freedom.

'Vietnam Remembered' is the sixth documentary in the 'Lest They Be Forgotten' series, which includes World War II, Normandy, D-Day, Iwojima and Korea.

Local veterans appearing in 'Vietnam Remembered' include Charles Harris of Edgewood; Wallace 'Wally' Mueller and Chaz Slimowicz of Bel Air, and Charles Mason of Fallston. Area veterans included Bill Comrey mon is that they have no one to share their stories of Harrisburg, Pa., and James Fulbrook from



Photo courtesy of THEWALL-USA.COM

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial reflects the dawning sky and the Washington Monument stands in the distance on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Fairfax, Va.

On behalf of the gathered veterans, Kreiner thanked Cappetto and everyone else who made the evening possible.

"I hope that all of you when you leave here tonight have in your heart a thank you," he said. "This film will go to the public so that they will know your story and hopefully have a welcome home for all of you."

Retired Lt. Col. George R. Large, chaplain of the Military Officers Association of America, presented the invocation and benediction and the Young Marines Marine Corps League posted the colors.

For more information about the Vietnam Remembered or the 'Lest They Be Forgotten' series, visit Cappetto's Web site www.veteranshistory.org.

515th

From front page

ues based on the Army today. Your signature is all over those seven values.

"Soldiers today are living off your legacy, so be proud of them," he added. "Thank you for the service you rendered to this country, in uniform and

During a banquet at the Holiday Inn in Linthicum on Sept. 17, with more than a dozen of the battalion's members or survivors in attendance, Sorkness shared the story of how and why he did what he did.

Sorkness said the process of putting the reunion together began five years ago, 20 years after his father's death, when he and his mother got into a military family history project in anticipation of his son entering the Coast Guard.

"I had nothing to go on from my dad," he said. "I knew he had been in Europe and that he'd been a field lineman, but beyond that, nothing."

An exhaustive search of personnel records at the National Archives in St. Louis, Mo., produced little, and it wasn't until he received a packet containing his father's service and discharge records from the Veterans Administration after a six-month wait that the pieces of the puzzle began coming together.

He said he came across a reference to the 515th FABN but wasn't sure what it meant. Finally, he learned through his father's home state archives in Washington state that his father had served in the 515th in Europe. Eventually, he and his wife located the



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzching, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, presents a coin of excellence to Ewing B. Pollock, a former captain in the 515th Field Artillery Battalion during the unit's reunion and dedication ceremony at the Ordnance Museum Sept. 18.

National Archives II in Maryland where they found several boxes containing the 515th unit rosters for 1945. With the unit roster in hand he began tracking down unit members using the Internet.

He said he found a man living near Fort Lewis, Wash., who remembered his father, and it blossomed from there.

"The point is, it's been a wonderful project for me," Sorkness said.

He thanked his son for put-

ting the unit Web site together. 'This is not my Web site, it's the 515th Web site," Sorkness said. "I really would like it to grow and include all of your stories. My next challenge is to get these stories. This [gathering] is the crowning point to have each of you here after sixty-two years. It's a very special experience that me and my Family are proud

to be a part of."

He introduced Kathy Abey, a representative of Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, who helped organize the Ordnance Museum tour and who encouraged the veterans to document their stories in the Veteran's History Project, a federally sponsored program dedicated to gathering personal recollections of veterans for the National Archives.

"It is vitally important to preserve your old photos," Abey said. "Please take these brochures home and consider recording and documenting

your stories."

The oldest member of the group, Ewing Pollock of Waynesburg, Pa., served in the 515th as a captain in C Battery and commander to several of the veterans in attendance. He said he was thrilled when he was contacted by Sorkness.

"I think it's important to share our history," he said. "It's important to understand what we went through. It isn't anything like what you see in the movies."

Pollock and his son David, who also was in attendance, share a law partnership in

Waynesburg. Ordnance Museum dedicates gun

send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@apg.

she had contacted state representatives for each veteran 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150;

> Thursday's paper. Staff

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following

On Sept. 18, retired Col.

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advertised. For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD Kone Brugh, chairman of the or Family member and as a Ordnance Museum Foundation, and Dr. Jack Atwater, the of appreciation for all of them. museum's director, greeted the 515th veterans at the museum and led the official dedication of its only 155 mm gun, the same kind the battalion fired during the war, to the 515th.

Atwater apologized for the gun's appearance and said that the gun, along with the other 240 pieces of equipment in the museum's collection, is slated to go through the museum's restoration project.

"My promise to you is that when we get done, it will look better than the one you fired,"

He reviewed the history and accomplishment of the gun battalion and corps artillery in general.

"The important thing is that you beat the Germans," Atwater said. "You saw first hand what that war was all about and for that I say 'thank you."

Brugh presented the plaque that will be affixed to the gun, then, Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzching, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, represented Turner in presenting each veteran with a Coin of Excellence.

Fritsching told them that, "the Soldiers serving today are indebted to your service and sacrifice."

"We just want you to know that we appreciate all that you have done for us," he said.

After the presentations, the veterans spent time admiring the gun, taking photos and reminiscing, and then moved inside for refreshments where they were surprised by an announcement from Abey that

result, had received certificates One received a U.S. flag that had flown over the Capitol.

Atwater made presentations.

"I thought it was the least we could do for these heroes who went so long without being recognized," Abey said.

The veterans agreed that they were touched and honored by the APG reception.

"Aberdeen has been wonderful," said David McClenny of Sanger, Texas. He said that with two brothers who are Air Force veterans who attend reunions every year, he's "wondered for years why we never got any recognition."

He said he was "very surprised" to hear from Sorkness.

"I was even more surprised to find the captain was still alive," he said. "He [Sorkness] told me that he [the captain] was coming and that's when I told him I was coming too."

Rudy Mata was a member of Headquarters Battery during the war. He said it was his job to lay communication wire for field phones. One day, near the end of the war, he said while out inspecting the lines for breaks, he was approached by a group of surrendering German soldiers.

"I looked up and here comes a bunch of Germans looking to surrender," he said. "We were told if that happens, to continue the mission and send them to a specific location, so I just pointed them to where to go to surrender. They had a white flag and everything and right at the end of the war, they were coming from all over."

Another wireman from C

See 515TH, page 15

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endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense,

Organizations bring new technologies to APG

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON** APG News

State-of-the-art technologies and innovations greeted visitors to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Technology Expo held at the APG South Gunpowder Club Oct. 14.

Co-hosted by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and the APG Garrison and the Directorate of Information Management, the bi-annual event draws local and national vendors, most of whom are government contractors, from all over the country.

This year, 60 companies were in attendance and more than 800 visitors viewed their wares by noon, according to Mark Flemister, co-owner of Federal Direct Access Expositions, who along with his wife Donna produces the event for RDECOM and DOIM.

"We work with military and civilian agencies to bring technology expos to their sites," Flemister said. "Everybody gets something out of it, and it's a great way to stay updated on the latest technology.

Several companies were participating in the APG Expo for the first time.

Veteran Corps, short for Veteran Corps of America, is a 3-year-old veteran-owned small business that offers high quality information technology, safety, security and defense-related services and products according to John Wheeler, vice president.

Wheeler said the company was co-founded by his father, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler.

"We employ military service and service-disabled veterans who are focused on helping meet our commitments to achieve customer satisfaction," Wheeler said, adding that the company offers a six-week training program to disabled veterans looking to start home-based businesses.

He displayed an AP2C



Mark Evans, center, and Tim Hogue, right, information technology specialists with the Directorate of Information Management, learn something new with Army Knowledge Online's Leta Deverle, acting outreach director, left, during the Technology Expo in APG South Oct. 14.

the Government Services Administration.

At the Hampden technical training aids display, Randy Dodson, educational specialist, displayed an array of manuals and reference books that he said features systems already in use at APG.

"There are a number for automotive training systems, which the OMMS [U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School] will contact us for training on HMMWVs [High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles]," he said.

"I've met a lot of people from APG training programs today," Dodson said. "And most of them were looking at our training equipment."

Another newcomer to the APG Technology Expo was Lexmark International, Inc. Displaying a multi-tasking 646 Lexmark copy/ fax machine for use with government-issued CAC cards.

The machine e-mails, scans to thumb drives or to networks and can save up to 12 print

"It's on the market world-

the company supplies purchas- larger seven hundred and nine expo was "going real well," ers and is available through hundred series," said Michael and that they had made several Hudgins, federal industry con-

chemical agent detector which wide and also comes in a sultant. Hudgins said that the See EXPO, page 5

Deployed U.S. contractors now subject to the UCMJ

Story by **CAPT JASON BAROCAS**Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

President George W. Bush signed into law the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 on

The bottom line is that civilian contractors who commit crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan are now subject to prosecution in a military court-martial. Oct. 17, 2006.

The act contains 907 pages of text, but to most individuals working in or with the military, the effect of the legislation will not be apparent. However, a mere five words buried in the mammoth law will have an immediate and substantial

impact on every U.S. civilian employee and civilian contractor working in Iraq and Afghanistan by extending Uniformed Code of Military Justice jurisdiction to persons serving with or accompanying an armed force in the field in time of declared war "or a contingency operation." [changed language is italicized]

The change makes these civilians subject to the UCMJ, the system of rules by which a military commander maintains good order and discipline over

their military personnel.

Prior to this law, Article 2(a) of the UCMJ stated that civilians serving with armed forces personnel in the field were subject to the UCMJ only during a period of a declared war. Only if a civilian committed a criminal offense in a declared war zone could the local military commander on the ground bring criminal charges against him and prosecute the case in a military court-martial.

For undeclared wars, however, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, the local military

over civilian crimes. Instead, civilians were subject to the Military Extraterritorial Judicial Act, which applies federal, not military law, over those crimes which are punishable by imprisonment for more than one year. In theory, MEJA could effectively handle serious crimes committed by civilians. In practice, however, very few prosecutions ever occurred. Moreover, the whole range of less serious crimes, known as misdemeanors, could not be prosecuted at all.

To some, including Senator Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a U.S. Air Force Reserve colonel and judge advocate, this was a legal loophole which created a double standard for persons doing the same job. Therefore, Sen. Graham introduced an amendment to Article 2(a) of the UCMJ.

The amendment, which took effect upon signing, applies the UCMJ to civilians during both a "declared war or a contingency operation." Operations Enduring Freedom and

impact on every U.S. civilian commander had no jurisdiction Iraqi Freedom are contingency employee and civilian conover civilian crimes. Instead, operations.

The new legislation undoubtedly closes the legal loophole identified by Sen. Graham. For example, if a contractor and a Soldier commit a larceny together, both may now be prosecuted under Article 121, UCMJ, in a military court. However, as some critics of the law have pointed out, the UCMJ contains a number of "military type" offenses that may not be appropriate to apply to a civilian. For example, if a civilian accompanying the force directs profanity towards a military officer, should he be subject to prosecution under Article 89 of the UCMJ for disrespecting a superior commissioned officer? Although it is far from clear whether such a result is desirable, a plain reading of the legislation would appear to allow this practice.

In the absence of any implementing guidance, it is difficult to foresee exactly what impact this law will have on the deployed contractor workforce. As a result, it will be up to the commanders in the field to make policy decisions on how to apply this new authority in a particular set of circumstances. The law and the implementing guidance to the law are always subject to change.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate recommends that any contractors about to deploy should contact their contracting officer for current, up to date information.



Web-based program speeds up SGT, SSG promotions

Story by MAJ JIM ELDREDGE U. S. Army Human Resources Command

The Army recently announced the first dramatic change to the enlisted promotions system for active duty Soldiers since the Vietnam era.

The Army sees this Webbased program, titled the "Soldier Self-Service DA Form 3355," as a bridge to DIMHRS (Defense Integrated Military

Human Resource System) and three key features. a way to empower Soldiers to directly impact on the management of their careers.

"Trust and verify are key components of the system" said Sgt. Maj. Tom Gills, chief of Enlisted Promotions at Human Resources Command. "This new program has numerous advantages over the current system, and the majority of those benefits stem from

"First, this system elimi-

nates the need for Soldiers to accumulate 20 or more points before adding them to their file," Gills said.

The Army uses an 800 point system that allows Soldiers to distinguish themselves from their peers by accumulating points among performance categories such as physical fitness, weapons firing, civilian

education, military education and awards.

"Under the current system, Soldiers must accumulate twenty points in one or more areas before they can add them to their files. With this new program, as soon as Soldiers earn points, they can add them to their file, making them immediately more competitive

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From page 3

good contacts.

"We're just letting people know that we're around," he said. "We're not normally the first name that comes up when people look for these types of products so this is a great way to get the interest going."

Dr. Louis A. Mole, vice president of ActioNet, said his company supplies small businesses customer service systems, writes software and develops programs.

"We've been in business since 1998, supplying GSA contracts," Mole said. "We're glad to have this opportunity to spread the word."

"I've been coming to the expos six or seven years," added Danny Twigg, a representative for GovConnection, which he said sells more than 130,000 products to 1,490 corporate and government consumers.

"Hardware, software, networking products, we have it all," Twigg said.

Pierre Burney, an information technician with Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, was one of several visitors who said they enjoyed the expo.

"I always come out to see what's out now," Burney said. "If you see something your office can use, you just go back and recommend it to the commander. This is always interesting because I always find something new."

"They had a much wider variety of items this year," said Tim Houge, a DOIM IT specialist. "It's certainly worthwhile to come out and see what's out there now."

"The AKO display was a real eye-opener," added DOIM IT specialist Mark Evans, who said he learned that the site offered a lot more than just e-mail.

"The overall expo was great and the AKO exhibit was even more applicable to me than a lot of the other ones," he said. Michael Mulvaney, a General Physics scientist with the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, said that the 3M digital wall display he recommended for purchase during the last expo has become a valuable tool for his office.

"I use one of these things every day," Mulvaney said as he admired the display with

3M sales supervisor Holly Chapman.

"As a vendor, it's wonderful to hear everything is working well for a customer," Chapman said. "We're committed to coming here and showing Army technicians things they might not see otherwise."

Community Notes

FRIDAY-SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 10
AND 11
31ST ANNUAL IRISH
FESTIVAL

The Irish Charities of Maryland will sponsor the 31st Annual Maryland Irish Festival at the

Timonium Fairgrounds in the Cow Palace located on 2200 York Road. The festival will be held 6 to 11 p.m., Nov. 9; noon to 11 p.m., Nov. 10; Sunday Mass will be held 10:30 a.m., Nov. 11; and the festival ends 7 p.m., Nov. 11. The festival will feature nationally recognized musical groups includ-

ing James Gallagher and Off the Boat; Seven Nations; Barleyjuice and Eileen Ivers, Irish step dancing lessons to puppetry, traditional Irish food, Celtic music and more. Proceeds benefit a wide variety of local, national and international non-profits in need of assistance.

Tickets cost \$7 for seniors ages 65 and over; \$10 for ages 18 to 64; \$5 for ages 12 to 17; ages 12 and under enter free. For a more information, visit http://www.irishfestival.com/information.htm.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 10 CRAZY CRAFTED "LEIGHTS"

Come see what can be done

with recyclables and a little imagination as festive light covers are created from ordinary, everyday items. This program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Cost is \$5 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 30TH ANNUAL DINING OUT

The 30th Annual Dining Out of the Southern Maryland Chapter of MOAA will be held 6 p.m., Nov. 10, at the Cedar Point Officers Club, NAS Patuxent River Maryland.

The Dining Out will include spouses so that ladies and gentlemen might enjoy the traditions of the evening together. Cocktail hour is 6 to 6:50 p.m.; do not be late for Officers Call.

The cost is \$50 per person, payable by check. Mail check to Southern Maryland MOAA, P.O. Box 84, Patuxent River, MD 20670 no later than Nov. 2.

For late reservations, call LCDR Tom Smith, 301-475-3694.

For more information or for directions, call Smith, president, MOAA Maryland Council, 301-475-3694 (home) or 301-904-0228 (cell phone).

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 11 THE BOSELY BEAT

Hike at the little known other half of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, the Bosely Conservancy. This free program will be held 9:30 to 11 a.m. for ages 8 to adult, 8 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

For more information, registration or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program begins at 1 p.m.

and is for all ages. No registration required.
For more information or for directions to the Anita C.

directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

CRUISIN' THE BUSH

Take advantage of low tide to slip under the railroad bridge and escape down the Bush River. This program will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for children 30 lbs. to adult. Cost is a contribution of \$6 for adults and \$4 for ages 13 and under. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 14 THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The Highlands School, located on 2409 Creswell Road, Route 543, Bel Air, will hold two open houses, 1:30 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m. Each open house will feature a slide presentation, a question and answer session and a facility tour.

Parents of children entering kindergarten through 8th grade are encouraged to visit the school.

For more information or for directions, call 410-836-1415.

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 16 HAVRE DE GRACE HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

There will be a free Holiday Craft Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the new Havre de Grace Activities Center located at 351 Lewis Lane.

Begin holiday shopping now and don't miss the local talents from the area.

Crafters will offer a variety of jewelry, gift baskets, ornaments and more. For more information or to reserve a table, call 410-939-5121.

THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKET BINGO

The Highlands School, located on 2409 Creswell Road (Route 543), Bel Air, will hold its annual Basket Bingo. Doors open at 6 p.m., games

begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person. All proceeds will benefit programs at The Highlands School.

For tickets or more information, call Connie Beckwith, 410-836-1415.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 17 HIKE BACK INTIME AT SWAN HARBOR FARM

Hike with a naturalist at Swan Harbor and search this historic site for signs of nature's preparations for winter.

This program will be held noon to 2 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Cost is \$4 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 18 SILVER TURTLES

Learn to prepare a meal cooked in foil over charcoal. This program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 8 to adult; ages 8 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

NEW PADDLERS CANOETRIP

Refresh old skills or learn new ones on a leisurely tour of Otter Point Creek.

The canoe trip will be held 1 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Cost is \$10 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

GET THE SKINNY ON SCARVES

Just in time for the holiday season, learn basic crocheting techniques to craft a unique scarf to give away or keep. Beginners are welcome.

Bring yarn and crochet needles. Guidelines for materials will be mailed prior to program.

This event will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Cost is \$5 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at www. apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.)

Post Shorts

DSHE to hold Van **Pooling Fair**

The Directorate of Safety. Health and Environment will hold a Van Pooling Fair for APG community awareness Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the APG North Post Chapel, building 2485; and Nov. 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the APG South Gunpowder Club, building E-4650.

The federal government provides up to \$110 per month subsidy toward van pooling expenses for qualified federal employees if they join or start a van pool. Van pooling helps reduce traffic congestion and emissions to the environment.

Van pooling vendors and Harford County representatives will be available at the fair to provide information about their van pooling services and answer any questions.

The fair will be held at the same time and location as the Federal Employees Health Benefits Health Fair.

NFFE Local 178 meeting today

The National Federation of Employees NFFE-IAM, Federal District 1, IAMAW, AFL-CIO, NFFE Local 178 invites all bargaining unit members to attend a general membership meeting noon to 1:30 p.m., Nov. 8, in building E-4415 (RDECOM, ECBC, ECBC matrixed employees, MRICD, CARA 20th Support Command, 22d Chemical Battalion and Acquisition Center government employees).

For more information, call 410-436-3942 or e-mail local178@apg.army.mil.

Disability **Employment Training** Conference today

The Federal Executive Board is sponsoring the annual Disability Employment Training Conference 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Nov. 8. The conference is being hosted by and at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Complex, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore (Woodlawn).

This one-day conference is for federal, state and local managers, supervisors, professionals, special emphasis program managers and employees, who work in the disability arena. The conference fee of \$50 includes a continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and a conference padfolio and materials.

For additional details and registration information, visit the FEB Web site http://www. baltimorefeb.us or send an e-mail to Baltimore.feb@verizon.net.

VVA parade to celebrate 25 years of 'The Wall' Saturday

Vietnam Veterans of America is sponsoring a 25th Anniversary Parade commemorating the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

in Washington, D.C.

Organizers are expecting the largest gathering of veterans in Washington since the dedication of The Wall in 1982.

The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with opening ceremonies featuring celebrities, athletes and political and military leaders at the parade's starting point on the Mall at 7th Street between Jefferson and Madison drives.

The parade follows, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with thousands of participants including prominent Vietnam veterans, military vehicles, floats, veteran motorcycle groups and marching bands from around the country. The parade ends on the grounds of the Washington Monument where participants and spectators can take part in unit reunions and enjoy a variety of activities and vendors.

Application forms for individuals and groups who would like to join the parade are available at http://vva.org/25thEvent/ event_info.htm or by calling toll free 877-727-2333.

For special accommodations, hotel or travel arrangements, call toll free 866-489-6888 or visit the VVA Web site, http://vva.org.

Veterinary Clinic closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed Nov. 12 for Veterans Day, Nov. 22 and 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday and Nov.

30 for end of month inventory. The clinic will be open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 20, 21, 26 and 27.

For more information, call the VTF, 410-278-4604/3911.

FEHB Health Fairs

FEHB, FEDVIP open seasons run Nov. 12 through Dec.

Health Fairs are scheduled 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 14, at the APG North Post Chapel, building 2485, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 20, at the APG South Gunpowder Club, building E-4650. Plan representatives will be available to answer questions.

Rates for the 2008 Federal Employees Health Benefits and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program rates have been posted. New rates hot rolls, apple pie, pumpkin

will be effective Jan. 6, 2008. To view FEHB rates, visit

Nov. 10 on the National Mall http://www.opm.gov/insure/ health/08rates/index.asp; to view FEDVIP rates, visit http://www.opm.gov/insure/ dentalvision/08/vision.asp.

> There is no icon, click on the words, "dental" or "vision."

More information on the Benefits Open Season will appear in future issues of the APG News.

Employees must contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) or Web site www.abc.army.mil or call 1-877-276-9287.

KUSAHC closes for training holiday

The Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed Nov. 13 for a training holiday.

Well-Being Council meets Nov. 15

The next Well-Being Council meeting is 9:30 a.m., Nov. 15, at the Post Chapel.

Traditional Thanksgiving day specialty meal

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal will be held in the APG North dining facility, building 4219 and the APG South dining facility, building E-4225, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Nov. 22. During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The holiday meal rate of \$6.05 applies to any officer, enlisted member and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.15 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal Menu includes: hearty turkey and wild rice soup, shrimp cocktail, savory roasted turkey, orange-honey glazed baked ham, carved to order steamship round, apple and sausage cornbread dressing, savory bread dressing, fluffy mashed potatoes with giblet gravy, candied yams, buttered corn, green beans almondine, assorted salad bar, bacon and tomato salad, cucumber salad, Waldorf salad, cranberry sauce, pie, pecan pie, cherry pie, fresh fruit, hard candy, mixed nuts,

soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted beverages and egg nog.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

Native American Heritage observance **Nov. 27**

The Garrison Native American Heritage Program Committee will hold a Native American Heritage observance, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 27, at the APG South Recreation Center, building E-4140. The event includes music, entertainment and exhibits.

For more information call Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023; Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM, 410-436-4810 or James Rivera, EEO Officer, 410-278-1161.

Give the gift of life blood drive Nov. 30

Support the troops by donating blood. The U.S. Army Research Laboratory will sponsor an Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., Nov. 30, Aberdeen North Recreation Center, building 3326. The blood drive is open to everyone.

For more information, call Patty Howell, 410-278-5217 or visit Web site www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Office Products Expo Dec. 4

The Directorate of Contracting, U. S. Army Contracting Agency will host their annual Office Products Expo 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 4, in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center, building 3326, Erie Street. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Dennis Bolen, ACA, 410-278-0849, DSN 298-0849 or e-mail dennis.bolen@ us.army.mil.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews. apg.army.mil under Shorts.)





Commentary: Protecting your Internet self

Story by **LEONARD BLAKE**

The benefits that the Internet and mobile technology can provide are without a doubt considerable and continue to grow. However, pitfalls do exist and 'spam' is one such example. Anyone who uses the Internet, who sends e-mail or uses mobile phones, will at some point come across the spam phenomenon.

But what exactly is spam, where does it come from and above all, what can we do to protect ourselves against it?

Spam is the generic term given to unsolicited and unwanted messages sent to an e-mail account or mobile phone, in other words, electronic junk mail.

Invariably it takes the form of an advertisement and is sent out to vast numbers, sometimes millions, of addresses. The message seeks to convince the addressee to visit a Web site, maybe browse further, and buy or subscribe to a particular product or service.

Worldwide, more than half of all e-mail is spam, and many consumers and companies experience inconvenience from it. Spam causes irritation, adds to receiver costs (system capacity) and takes time to remove.

Its content can cause damage to pc's, and more worrisome, spam is now being more frequently used for criminal purposes.

It can be used for the dissemination of computer viruses or the creation of so called zombie-networks - remote computers designed specifically for illegal activities.

Another criminal application is phishing. This is a type of Internet fraud which seeks to persuade the addressee to give away confidential information such as a PIN code or credit card number. An e-mail message will be disguised as a trustworthy institution such as the addressee's bank or credit card company, and the fake identity can appear very convincing and reliable.

Common sense do's and don'ts for work and home Do:

- Delete, without opening, all suspicious subject titles and/or e-mail addresses, from persons or companies not recognized or known directly.
- Be careful when opening attachments. These can contain viruses that activate the moment they are opened.
- Install a good quality virus scanner and firewall and keep them up to date. A poorly pro-

tected computer can be abused via the Internet. In this way the user can become the sender of large amounts of spam without even knowing it. High-quality programs are available at computer stores or from Internet service providers.

- Install a spam filter or subscribe to one from the Internet service provider.
- Use multiple e-mail addresses and only give out main e-mail address to known trustworthy persons.
- If confidential information is being asked in an e-mail that appears to come from an addressee's bank or credit card company (for example addressee's bank account number or login code), check by phone if this request is truly coming from them, as these kinds of inquiries are highly uncommon.
- If sending e-mail messages to a large number of addresses, use the BCC-field (Blind Carbon Copy). In this way the addresses are not visible to others.
- Report spam to the organization's installation Assurance Security Officer or Security
- Encrypt e-mail using an encryption program, if sender wants to be sure that only the addressee gets to know the content. Encrypting e-mail is similar to sealing an envelope.

Don't:

- Don't buy, don't reply. Never react to spam, do not buy any product or service advertised and do not try to "unsubscribe" from the list. Purchases reward only the spammer and contribute to the business-case of spamming. Unsubscribing serves only to confirm to the spammer that an e-mail address is still valid. It will consequently appear on more lists and databases.
- Do not react to false virus reports (also named hoax). These reports encourage addressees to take measures against a so-called virus. In reality there is no virus, but this will cause damage to the computer. Often addressees are asked to send the virus report to as many people as possible. In this way the hoax is being spread like a chain letter, resulting in more damage and inconvenience to more people.
- Be cautious in giving away confidential information via e-mail or Internet, like a bank account number, PIN code, password or login data. Always think twice, consider if it is necessary and check whether the party on the other end is really who they claim to be.
- Be careful when revealing contact information on the Internet, like an e-mail address or telephone number. Consider who it is being revealed to and who might have access to it, thereafter.

USDA announces voluntary recall of several Totino's, Jeno's frozen pizzas

General Mills is voluntarily recalling an undetermined number of its Totino's and Jeno's frozen pizza products because of possible contamination with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Nov. 1.

As a result, the Defense Commissary Agency is removing the following products from its shelves, food safety officials said:

- Totino's, Party Supreme, UPC - 42800-10700 (sold in stateside and DeCA Europe commissaries)
- Totino's 3 Meat, UPC -42800-10800 (sold in stateside commissaries only)
- Totino's Pepperoni, UPC - 42800-11400 (sold in all commissaries worldwide)

UPC - 42800-11600 (sold in all commissaries worldwide)

- Jeno's Crisp 'n Tasty Pepperoni, UPC - 35300-00572 (sold in all commissaries worldwide)
- Jeno's Crisp 'n Tasty Combo, UPC - 35300-00576 (sold in all commissaries worldwide)

The frozen meat pizza products subject to recall were produced on or before Oct. 30 and were distributed to retail establishments nationwide. Each package also bears the establishment number "EST. 7750" inside the USDA mark of inspection as well as a "best if used by" date on or before "02 APR 08 WS."

The potential problem was uncovered by state and feder-

• Totino's Party Combo; al authorities investigating 21 occurrences of E. coli-related illnesses in 10 states. About half of the individuals who became ill were hospitalized as a result. The earliest case reported to state authorities occurred on July 20, and the latest case reported occurred on Oct. 10. Nine of the 21 people reported having eaten Totino's or Jeno's pizza with pepperoni topping at some point prior to becoming ill.

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. Seniors, the very young, and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to food Bourne illness.

Any consumers concerned about an illness should contact a physician. Anyone diagnosed by a physician as having an illness related to E. coli O157: H7 is also urged to contact state and local public health authorities.

Commissary patrons who have any of these products at home should stop consuming it, throw away the product and return the UPC (bar code) symbol from each pizza box to the store from which they purchased it for a full refund. Consumers with questions about the recall should contact the company at 800-949-9055. Consumers can also send their UPCs, along with their name and address to: Totino's / Jeno's, P.O. Box 200 – Pizza, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0200.

For more information on this recall, go to http://www. generalmills.com. Commissary patrons can also get more information on this and other recalls by going to the DeCA Web site at http://www.commissaries.com, visit the "Food Safety" section and access links to various consumer safety sites.

AAFES NEWS

Exchange cooperative efforts result gift card 'Cross Acceptance'

A sustained focus on cooperative efforts between the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Marine Corps Exchange and Navy Exchange Service Command is paying off for military Families who are able to redeem AAFES, MCX and NEX-specific gift cards at any Army, Air Force, Navy the Exchange Cooperative or Marine Corps exchange Efforts Board placed addi-

industry, shoppers are expected to spend more than thirty-five billion dollars on gift cards during the 2007 holiday season," said AAFES' Chief Operating Officer Mike Howard. "With convenience got much better," said Com-

being the driver for most gift mander NEXCOM Rear Adm. card purchases, the exchanges realized that cross acceptance would provide greater flexibility, buying power and

For many years, the Military Exchange Services have collaborated on projects of common value, but in 2006 tional emphasis on initiatives "Throughout the retail like gift card cross acceptance. As a result of these cooperative efforts, each of the exchanges began accepting their sister exchanges' gift cards on Nov. 6.

"The exchange gift card just

Robert J. Bianchi. "With joint operations and joint basing increasingly common, our service members need to be able to use gift cards at any military exchange available to them. Now, Exchange gift cards are as mobile as our service members."

Exchange gift cards are available up to \$500 and can be purchased at military exchanges worldwide. They can also be purchased online at http:// www.aafes.com or http:// www.navy-nex.com. MCX gift cards can only be purchased at MCX locations.

Marine Corps Exchange at Families."

Camp Pendleton, the NEX Pearl Harbor Mall or one of the AAFES/MCX stores in Iraq, authorized shoppers will no longer need to sort through three different gift cards to determine what will be accepted at that particular facility," said Maj. Gen. Timothy R. Larsen, director, Personnel and Family Readiness Division, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps. "This effort is a terrific example of how the Department of Defense's exchange services are working together to strengthen the exchange benefit for all Marines, Sailors, "Whether visiting the Airmen, Soldiers and their

AAFES, Marvel unveil fifth military-only comic book

To help celebrate its 112th anniversary, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is joining forces with Marvel Comics to once again distribute a free, military-exclusive comic book to troops around the world.

Expected to be available exclusively at BX/PX facilities around Nov. 10, including 53 locations in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, the newest issue in the AAFES/Marvel series, titled "Spirit of America," will feature Captain America for the first time since his demise in March after nearly 60 years in print.

"AAFES coordinates and distributes these complimentary comics as a way of saying 'thank you' to troops and their Families," said AAFES Chief of Staff Col. Max Baker. "If the first four comic books are any indicator, this edition will certainly become a 'must have' for our customers. Exclusive military distribution combined with the first appearance of Captain America in eight months should create an unprecedented demand."

Spirit of America," the fifth installment in AAFES/Marvel military-only comic book series that began with "The New Avengers" in April 2005, tells the story of insurgents who attempt to infiltrate the Los Angeles Air Force Base. Captain America delivers a video in which he asks the Avengers, consisting of Ironman, Black Widow and Wonder Man, to protect a central character in the story, a U.S. Army Soldier serving overseas.

Exchange to get military shoppers' 'motors running' with 2007 Harley-**Davidson Sweepstakes**

AAFES

Jeweler Sandberg & Sikorski and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service are partnering to give military shoppers an exclusive opportunity to "chew up the horizon" with a 2008 Harley-Davidson 1200N Nightster. Popular for its unique design and low seat, the Nightster is one of Harley-Davidson's newest additions to the Sportster family.

"Diamonds and Harleys may not seem to have a lot in common, but both categories offer terrific examples of how AAFES is actively supporting military Families," said AAFES' chief of Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. "From finding the perfect ring for budget-conscious newlyweds to ensuring new riders have the person-

al protective equipment and information needed to safely operate a motorcycle, military shoppers know this command is committed to meeting their diverse and dynamic needs," Thurmond said.

Customers can participate in the 2007 Harley-Davidson Sweepstakes at BX/PX locations worldwide through Dec. 24. No purchase is necessary to enter and entrants do not have to be present to win. The only requirement to enter this and other AAFES contests is a military identification card authorizing contestants to shop at the exchange (see entry forms for complete details).

The 2007 Harley-Davidson Sweepstakes drawing will take place in January 2008. AAFES will award prizes within 30 days of the drawing.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities/Events

Baltimore Blast Military Appreciation Night

The Baltimore Blast Indoor Soccer will hold Military Appreciation Night, 7:35 p.m., Nov. 10. at the 1st Mariner Arena. located on 201 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore. The Baltimore Blast will play against the Orlando Sharks. Tickets cost \$12 for active duty military and retirees; tickets cost \$16 for non-military. Cost includes ticket only, no transportation is provided. Preorder tickets now. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information, visit MWRLeisureTravelOffice,APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@ apg.army.mil.

Christmas in New York

MWR has scheduled several trips to New York City - eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, watching a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more. Trips will take place Nov. 17, and 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907or e-mail MWR Leisure.

Spend the day or weekend in NYC

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor its annual trip to see the "Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular," starring

the famous Rockettes, in New York City. Choose to spend either the day or the weekend.

The weekend trip costs \$689 for a single, \$449 for a double, \$324 for a triple, or \$308 with four people in the room. The bus will depart 9:30 a.m., Nov. 23. Price includes charter bus transportation, the ticket for the show, and hotel accommodations for a two-night stay. A \$50 per person deposit is due upon reservation.

The daytrip costs \$130 per person. The bus will depart 6 a.m., Nov. 24. Price includes charter bus, the ticket for the show, with time for shopping, sightseeing and lunch before the show.

For more information or reservations, call Angela Keithley, 410-278-4603.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Travel to New York City to see the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes.

Tickets for Nov. 24, 2 p.m. show cost \$120 each;

- Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m. show cost \$173 each (orchestra seating); bus departs 7:10 a.m.
- The Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m., show costs \$130; bus departs 7:10 a.m.
- Dec. 9, 5 p.m. show costs
- Dec. 14, 4 p.m. show costs
- Dec. 15, 5 p.m. show costs
- Dec. 16, 5 p.m. show costs

Seats are limited, register Nov. 11

early. Cost includes charter bus transportation and a ticket for the show. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information or to make reservations, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@ apg.army.mil.

Lyric Opera House

The Lyric Opera House will present Playhouse Disney Live, 12:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m., Nov. 23 and 24.

Blast off to adventure with some favorite Playhouse Disney pals including the Little Einsteins Leo, Annie, Quincy and June and more.

Limited tickets are available. Tickets cost \$42 for orchestra/ box seating; \$30.50 for tier level/dress circle seating first tier; and \$19 for balcony seating. Everyone regardless of age needs a ticket to enter.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Choice of shows at The **Hippodrome Theater**

MWR Leisure Travel Services has discounted tickets for several shows at The Hippodrome Theater, located at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, 12 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore.

Shows include:

• "My Fair Lady," 2 p.m.,

• "Avenue Q," 2 p.m., Dec.

- "Cirque Dreams," 2 p.m., Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 2008
- "High School Musical," 2 p.m., Feb. 23, 2008; and 8 p.m., Feb. 29, 2008
- "Camelot," 2 p.m., March 29, 2008
- "The Color Purple," 2 p.m., May 3, 2008; 2 p.m., May 10, 2008; and 6:30 p.m., May 11, 2008.

Tickets are available for a limited time – purchase them now. Tickets range in price from \$33 to \$87. To order tickets, visit www. eventusher.com; enter the special password: 105MWRAPGMD and follow the instructions on the ordering page.

Price includes show ticket only, no transportation is provided. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit the MWR Leisure Travel Office located in APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Grease on Broadway

Sandy and Danny reunite once again. See Grease, 2 p.m., May 17, 2008, on Broadway. Tickets cost \$165 each and include bus transportation and Broadway play. This event is open to all DoD ID card holders. Purchase tickets in advance, or purchase tickets as a Christmas gift.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Recreation Center, building

e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@ apg.army.mil.

Discount tickets for Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum

MWR Travel Leisure has discount tickets available for the new Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum, Washington, D.C. Visit the Spirit of Washington D.C. and travel through history from the founding fathers to modern day politics with hands-on exhibits featuring George Washington's inauguration, Abraham Lincoln's assassination and the Watergate scandal. The museum opens 10 a.m. and is open 365 days a year. Tickets cost \$17.75 for adults (\$26.44 at the door); \$16 for seniors ages 60 and over (\$24.32 at the door); and \$12.75 for children ages 4 through 12 (\$19.04 at the door). Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Madame Tussaud's is located in the historic Woodies Building, located on F and 10th Streets, 1025 F Street NW, Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil

Tickets available for Toby's Dinner Theatre

Toby's Dinner Theatre has two locations: Best Western Hotel and Conference Center located on 5625 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore and 4900 Symphony Woods Road, Columbia, Md. (South Entrance Road between

3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Route 29 and Little Patuxent Parkway). Shows are open to all DoD ID card holders.

Baltimore shows

Three upcoming shows include Grease, Nov. 19; Dreamgirls, through Nov. 11; and Holiday Hot Nostalgia opening Nov. 20.

Sunday through Thursday, tickets cost \$43 per person for adults and \$27.50 for children; Fridays, tickets cost \$44.75 per person for adults and \$29.50 for children; and Saturdays, tickets cost \$47.25 per person for adults and \$45.25 for children. Columbia shows

Three shows include Titanic, through Nov. 11; The Sound of Music opens Nov. 15. Sunday through Thursday, tickets cost \$41 per person for adults and \$26.50 for children; Fridays, tickets cost \$42.50 per person for adults and \$28 for children; and Saturdays, tickets cost \$45 per person for adults and children.

Dog Obedience for Beginners

Get hands-on training and learn techniques that will help the dog respond to commands in a positive way.

Class will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday, through Nov. 29 (no class Nov. 22) at the APG North Recreation Center, building 3326. Registration costs \$60.

For more information or to register, call MWR

Registration office, 410-278-4907/4621, building 3326.

ACS upcoming events

All scheduled events will be held at the Army Community Service Center, building 2754, Rodman Road unless otherwise noted.

Holiday Extravaganza, tree lighting

Army Community Service will host the annual Holiday Extravaganza and tree lighting ceremony 6 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 6 at the APG North Recreation Center, building 3326.

The tree lighting is at 6 p.m. inside the APG North Recreation Center. Free photos with a "special guest" in his red suit, starts at 7 p.m.

Since this is a ticketed event, tickets can be picked up starting Nov. 13 from ACS building 3326 only.

For more information, call 410-278-4372/7572.

ACS announces 'Holiday Sponsor Program'

With the holiday season fast approaching and the nation still fighting the War on Terror, the APG community is constantly reminded of the sacrifices of the men and women in the U.S. armed forces.

During these stressful times, some military Families are experiencing financial difficulties and require additional assistance. Army Community Service works closely with these Families providing supportive services throughout the year.

To help make this holiday season brighter for some of these Families, ACS will collect it Out." The support group is open to adults donations from individuals or groups desiring to sponsor a military Family.

For more information, call Arcelio V. Alleyne, ACS Financial Readiness Program manager, 410-278-2450/7572, fax, 410-278-9685 or e-mail, arcelio.alleyne@us.army.mil.

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and Harford Community College Small Business Development FIN, support group meets 11:30 a.m. to 1 Center will sponsor Smart Start Your Business seminars. This free 90-minute orientation program provides an overview of the ways to start a business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and how to write a strategic business plan. Other services offered by the SBDC will also be discussed.

The seminar will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 Assault 1-410-322-7154.

p.m. Nov. 14.

For more information or to RSVP, call 410-278-9669.

Smart Start Your Business seminar

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and Harford

Community College Small Business Development Center will sponsor a Smart Start Your Business seminar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 14.

This free 90-minute orientation program will provide an overview of the ways to start a business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and how to write a strategic business plan. Other services offered by the SBDC will also be discussed.

For more information or to RSVP, call 410-278-9669.

The Waiting Families Support Group is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road. This group is designed to provide resource information to assist spouses and Family members remaining behind while the military sponsor serves on unaccompanied tours, extended TDY or deployments.

Meetings will be held Nov. 14 and Dec. 5. For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road, 410-278-9669/7572.

A Support Group for Survivors meets 6 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday. The topic is "Talking affected by unhealthy relationships including domestic and/or sexual violence.

A Support Group for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse will meet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. "Let's Talk About It" provides emotional support, begins the healing process and shares experiences and resources.

Family Information Network Meeting, or p.m., the second Wednesday of the month. It is designed to provide education, information and support to those Families who are living with or caring for an exceptional Family member.

Victim Advocacy APG 24-Hour hotlines: Domestic Violence-410-652-6048; Sexual

Sports

Fall Aerobics classes at the APG North Fitness Center, building 320

Fee for individual classes is \$4 per session. For more information or to set up an aerobics class for a group, contact Jeff Pettiway, 410-278-9725.

Barbara's step-weight aerobics, 20 sessions

Classes will be held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, thru Dec. 20. (No class Nov. 22; make up class will be scheduled.) Cost

Joe's cardio pump, 20 sessions

Classes will be held 5 to 6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, thru Dec. 19. Cost is \$44.

Senior Golf special

Ruggles Golf Course is offering a Senior Golf Special to golfers age 55 or older: play Monday through Thursday until 2:30 p.m. for \$33. This special may not be used with any other discounts. Tee time registration is recommended.

For more information, call 410-278-4794 or e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil.

Units are set to duke it out in November

Another Amateur Boxing Night is set for Center, 410-278-4041.

6 p.m., Nov. 17, at Hoyle Gymnasium, building E-4210. The 16th Ordnance Battalion will defend its title against the 143rd Ordnance Battalion. Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military, \$10

for civilians and \$20 for ringside seats. Admission is free for children 6 and younger. The event is open to the public. Doors open at 4 p.m. Purchase tickets at MWR Leisure Travel

Services building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Gymnasium, 410-436-3375/7134.

Fall, winter leagues forming

All leagues are based on a handicap system. eams establish a handicap after they bowl the first three games. Handicaps are 90 percent of 200.

Friday Fun Bunch includes three men and one woman, three women and one man, or two men and two women. The cost and start time will be determined. Tuesday Intramural meets 5 p.m., Jan. 8 and

starts Jan. 15. Cost is \$6 per person per week for 10 weeks. Trophies are awarded at the end of the league.

For more information, call the APG Bowling

SCHOOL LIAISON

Monitoring a child's progress on Edline*

APG School Liaison/Harford County Public

Now that school conferences are past, parents may want to be more proactively involved in their child's education. Consider Edline. Middle and high school students generally do not share the details of their days, but parents can access the info from their own computers. Use Edline to:

- Check child's latest grades
- Receive e-mail alerts when new grades
- See what homework is not turned in and read notes from the child's teachers
- View team and club activities
- Verify attendance • View a 'Combined Calendar' to see all events from the school calendar and the child's own classes and activities automati-
- cally collected and personalized. • Read daily announcements, lunch menus,

school policies and classroom news Setting up an Edline account

- Go to the child's secondary school office with parent photo ID
- Ask for an Activation Code.
- Receive an account set-up instruction paper from the school.

Open House at St. Joan of Arc School

St. Joan of Arc School will hold a fall open house 9 to 11 a.m., Nov. 8. Prospective parents and students can see first-hand what is happening at St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen. For more information, call the school office, 410-272-1387.

For more information on any APG school related information, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil.

Dawning of a new era in APG's 90-year history **90th Anniversary Celebration Calendar of Events**

(All dates are subject to change and weather conditions.) 278-4372, 6 to 9 p.m. November

• 10, APG 90th Anniversary Gala, Ripken

- Stadium, 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-4603.
- TBA, Military Family Movie, ACS, 410-
- **December**
 - 6, ACS Christmas Party/Tree Lighting Ceremony, 410-278-4372, 6 to 9 p.m.

(Editor's note: This calendar will be updated as necessary. New or changed items will appear in italic bold print.)

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

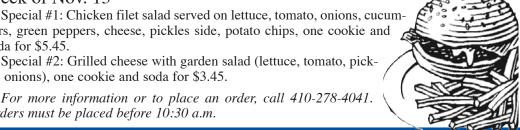
Week of Nov. 5

Week of Nov. 13

Special #1: Chicken cheese steak sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, mushrooms, sweet green peppers, jalapeno peppers, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.85. Special #2: Bacon, lettuce and tomato sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$6.75.

Special #1: Chicken filet salad served on lettuce, tomato, onions, cucumbers, green peppers, cheese, pickles side, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.45.

les onions), one cookie and soda for \$3.45. For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



515th

From page 2

Battery, Chuck Stowe, said that "Stringing commo wire from one battery to another meant that if anything went wrong we had to go out and fix it."

"I don't care what time it was, if it went out, you had to drop whatever you were doing," he said.

He said his only regret about the reunion was that there were so many who didn't live to see it.

"A few years earlier and there would have been a lot more people," he said.

Glen Owens, of Boise, Idaho, said he was a member of the gun crew that fired from one of the first positions in France.

"I've enjoyed myself immensely," he said of the reunion. "I really have, it's all been great."

Sorkness also thanked co-researcher Charlene Farraro, who helped him locate members while also researching her father, Preston McCauley, a cannoneer in B Battery.

Farraro, who wore her father's uniform to the reunion, said that meeting the veterans was "like being a part of my dad's life."

"There's a gentleman here who was

a corporal on his crew," she said. "I lost him in 1980 and I'd been curious about his unit. I finally found its history last summer, and it went from there."

Sorkness said that it was fulfilling to see

Sorkness said that it was fulfilling to see the result of what began as curiosity about his father's military service. The years of research and running into brick walls were more than worth the effort, he said.

"They were in their twenties the last time they saw each other, and now they're in their eighties," he said. "That's quite a jump. After sixty-two years they had no reason to believe they'd ever see or hear about each other again. That's pretty awesome."

The 515th Field Artillery Battalion

The 515th, a 155mm 'Long Tom' gun battalion, fired its first rounds in combat on March 13, 1945 from its position at Sarreinsming, France into Bliecastle, Germany. Over the next couple of days, the battalion supported the XV Corps and assisted the 100th Division in the attack

on the Maginot Forts. On March 15, the 515th was one of five battalions attached to the 194th Field Artillery Group, in general support of the 45th Division Artillery as the XV Corps launched its attack on the Siegfried Line. From the time that it fired its first rounds in combat until nearly the end of the war, the unit was constantly on the move and involved in combat, supporting various units. Moving steadily northward, the unit crossed the Rhine River on a heavy pontoon bridge at Worms, Germany on March 27. From there the battalion moved south to the area of Heidelberg and then north again toward the area of Birkenfeld.

In one of its most noteworthy achievements, during the month of March, the battalion traveled a distance of 557 miles, 153 of those miles while engaged in heavy combat. The 515th fired 3,122 rounds of ammunition during this time.

As an unattached unit of the 7th Army, the 515th ended its days in combat near Munich, Germany where many of its members witnessed the horror of the Nazi holocaust upon visiting Landsberg Concentration Camp,

The 515th was made up of three gun batteries, with four guns in each battery. Each gun was pulled by an M-4 High Speed Tractor, which was referred to as a prime mover. Each battery had about 100 men assigned to it with varying jobs and responsibilities. Generally, those not specifically assigned to the guns would set up defensive perimeters around the gun emplacements. Usually the four guns of the battery would set up approximately 100 yards apart from one end to the other. All three batteries, A, B and C, depending on the location, terrain and mission, would be set up within a couple of miles of each other. Along with the three gun batteries were the Headquarters and Service batteries. In total about 500 men were in the battalion. The 155mm Long Tom gun fired shells weighing close to 100 pounds. The guns could fire up to 15 miles with accuracy. Shells were lifted by a small crane off the back of the prime mover. Most shells were high explosive, but phosphorous shells were fired as well.

For a full account of the 515th FABN, visit the unit's Web site at www.515thfiel dartillerybattalion.com.

Promotions

From page 5

with their peers," Gills said.

The accumulation rule, a personnel workload management-based requirement for more than 34 years, has long irritated Soldiers and their Families. This long-needed improvement translates into faster promotions.

The second key improvement is also related to speed. Currently, when Soldiers update their files with new points, or are newly recommended for promotion, they must wait until the first day of the second month before those points become effective in the system, approximately two months. With the self-service application, Soldiers recommended for promotion or those adding points will have those points in the system the first day of the following month, provided they add them in by the eighth day of the month.

"We have to take a snapshot of the current points across the Army, while allowing time to forecast accurately how many Soldiers we need in a given MOS. According to the experts who developed the program, the eighth is that pivotal day," Gills said.

Finally, because of the self-input capability provided to Soldiers for some of their administrative points, recomputation evaluations conducted across the Army at Human Resource Offices every month will immediately become a thing of the past. This time-consuming requirement for Soldiers and managers across the Army is burdensome. With the elimination of Personnel Service Battalions across the Army in support of transformation, this workload reduction will be a welcome relief.

"This is just one more example of how the Army is transforming into a more agile force and improving processes using existing technology," Gills said.

While the Army continues to drive hard towards the DIMHRS solution, this program provides some of the DIMHRS-type improvements now, and will help Soldiers by ensuring their records are accurate when we do make the DIMHRS transition in October 2008.

Concerns about the new self-service system have been brought up, and largely relate to Soldiers putting in false data.

"That concern is valid to a point, but appears somewhat overstated," Gills said.

A few Soldiers have, for the past 20 years, tested the system. Some will likely try to go around this new system. The numbers are small.

"This is the trust and verify part of the system," Gills said. "We trust our Soldiers. They live by the Warrior Ethos. We trust them with expensive equipment. We trust them with enormous responsibilities. We trust them with the lives of their fellow Soldiers. Certainly, we can trust them with keeping accurate records.

"We actually have a fairly robust verification process built into the system," he said. "When a commander recommends a Soldier for promotion, he is doing so based on the chain of command's recommenda-

tion as well as his own observation of the Soldier's character and performance over time. A command sergeant major and panel of senior NCO's then certify that Soldier in a formal board process. Once those two actions have occurred, the Human Resources specialist adds the points into the system and the Soldier is at that point allowed to add points to roughly half of the measured areas of performance."

Items such as certificates of achievement, certificates of military education, completion of a college course (after certification by the education center or S1/MPD for that university enrollment) are examples of point areas a Soldier may modify. Higher awards (AAM and above), APFT and weapons qualification are examples of areas that will remain the responsibility of the unit for input onto the Soldier's record. The system will automatically tally all points.

Additionally, each month the commander will receive a report that shows all promotable Soldiers within the unit, their previous month points total compared to their current points and the amount of points added, if any. First sergeants know their Soldiers, and unusual or suspicious activity will be readily apparent. All Soldiers must electronically sign a statement that attests to the validity of the points they have added. Those who do attempt to cheat will have to face their leadership, administrative and other actions as appropriate.

Finally, HRC will randomly audit a percentage of promotable Soldiers across the force. Human resources specialists will review reports monthly indicating those selected for audit, and those Soldiers will be required to produce all supporting documentation.

"As I travelled the Army testing the system and talking to Soldiers, there were typically one or two dissenters in each audience who were concerned about cheating. I reminded them that we have an opportunity to do something really good for Soldiers and their Families. Do we want to focus on the opportunity or the small percentage that might want to test the system by cheating? I believe we need to move forward and recognize the Soldiers who perform their duty selflessly and with integrity each day," Gills said. "We have the greatest Army in the history of the world, buttressed by an ethically sound, values-based NCO Corps. When we move to DIMHRS, our Soldiers will be ready for it, and their records will more accurately reflect their performance as a result of this effort.'

Soldiers in the grade of specialist and sergeant may access this application at the HRC Enlisted Promotions Web Site, https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/select/promo.htm. Non-promotable specialists and sergeants may access the program for viewing and update, but will not be able to affect point changes to the Army data base until they have been recommended by their commander and have appeared before a promotion board. Promotable specialists and sergeants may access and update their file, which will affect points beginning Dec. 1.



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



Chaplaincy confronts suicide issues

Story by

YVONNE JOHNSON

Rising incidents of attempted or successful suicides since the start of the Global War on Terror have prompted the Army Chaplaincy to take a tougher stance on preventive measures.

Led by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Orman W. (Wayne) Boyd, behavioral health program manager, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, the new Suicide Awareness training session, like those being held Army-wide, was held at Aberdeen Proving Ground main post chapel Oct. 4.

With most of the installation chaplains and chaplain assistants in attendance, Boyd explained the current circumstances, outlined the Department of the Army program established to identify at-risk Soldiers and explained the role of spiritual advisors in teaching suicide awareness and prevention in their units.

"This is a tough world, and Family separations are hard on our young men and women," Boyd said. "We just want everybody, especially that Soldier's buddy to be aware that this is going on."

He explained the use of a new DA Web site that offers training resources and guidelines and said that the program has received the support of top Army leaders, like Army Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston.

"He's been very supportive," Boyd said adding that the SMA addressed the issue during the Association of the United States Army convention in October, during which he introduced the slogan, "One Suicide Is One Too Many."

Boyd said that support from celebrities has enhanced the program's message and he displayed a 10-minute video featuring former Pittsburg Steelers quarterback and current FOX Sports commentator Terry Bradshaw who spoke about the importance of seeking help. In the video, Bradshaw discussed stress and depression and emphasized that "these feelings are treatable."

"The most important thing is you [have to] talk [to someone]," Bradshaw said. "We love you, we respect you and we admire you, and we can't begin to imagine what you must be feeling or what you must be thinking. Get help."

Boyd said that he appreciated Bradshaw's candor and that the video was not scripted.

"This was coming from his heart," he said. Another celebrity supporting the initiative is actor Gary Sinise, the star of CSI: NY, who is the front man for the Lt. Dan Band which plays for the USO and armed forces activities around the world.

Sinise recorded a three-minute public service announcement at the Pentagon in which he encouraged Soldiers to "Stay alive to overcome challenges." Boyd said that the use of figures Soldiers can identify with gives the training a new look that will hold a listener's attention

"What I try to do is make the training different so that for the Soldiers, it's not going to look, smell or sound like any training they've had before," he said.

Trainers can order the Bradshaw and Lt. Dan DVDs free of charge, he added.

According to Boyd, the Chief of Chaplains is requiring this training at annual chaplain

train-the-trainer sessions. Highlighted will be the 'Intervention' measures: 'Ask Your Buddy,' 'Care For Your Buddy,' and 'Escort Your Buddy,' which details how Soldier's can help prevent suicide among their fellow Soldiers.

"What we're finding is that not enough are being trained on it," Boyd said. "We want this training to be just like combat life saving. Soldiers have to understand that they can't' be afraid to ask the question, 'Are you thinking about harming yourself?' You're not going to put the idea in their head. You're just reacting to certain signs.

"The training is conducted on two levels, for Soldiers and for Leaders," Boyd said. "The bottom line is that it encourages leaders to create a trusting environment in which Soldiers will feel comfortable asking for help."

It includes local resources available to help at-risk Soldiers from the chain of command, to unit chaplain, mental health clinics, staff duty officers and local emergency rooms.

Resources available to help leaders respond to Soldiers who may be at risk for suicide can be found at the AKO Web site: https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/334798; USA-CHPPM: http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Readiness/suicide.aspx; or the Army G1: http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide.asp.

In addition, the Army G1 Web site includes information about the Army Well Being Liaison Office, 800-833-6622; the Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline, 800-984-8523; the National Suicide Hotline, 1-800-SUICIDE; as well as the Web sites www.armyfamiliesonline.org; www.militaryonesource.com and www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

"There's a wealth of information out there to let the Soldier know that there are alternatives," Boyd said. "Chaplains and chaplain assistants will take this training back to their units. We have to make sure that all of our Soldiers, Family members and leaders stay informed."

For most participants, the training reinforced previous training they had concerning suicide issues.

"These are things that have happened right here at APG," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Fred MacLean. "The installation has a mixture of Soldiers from those new to the Army to those returning from deployments. The good news is our [noncommissioned officers] are pretty well informed about procedures."

"Soldiers are consumed with family and personal issues and you have to be sensitive to their needs and sensitivities," said Sgt. Crystal Starks, a 16th Ordnance Battalion chaplain assistant. "Sometimes that just means being able to recognize their behavior or loss of habits," she said. "Whatever I feel I can't handle I always give to my chaplain."

Chaplain (Capt.) R. Randall Thomas, 16th Ordnance Battalion, said that he appreciated the new perspective in the training.

"This is a fresh and different perspective that is being taken," he said. "It's more conversational and not just dictating to the Soldier and it should make them more open to talking about his concerns. It should be very beneficial."

Suicide prevention stresses watch out for your buddy

NEWERIE

Be Willing to Listen

Story by

J.D. LEIPOLD

Army News Service

The Army wants Soldiers and their Families to know help is available to those struggling with issues that sometimes bring about suicide.

"This year's strategy focuses on three key points - training the Army Family in positive life skills, buddy care and counseling through a variety of ways," said Army Chief of Chaplains Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver. "I think educating our leaders, Soldiers and Families on what to look for in suicidal behaviors has made our people more sensitive and aware," Carver said.

Soldiers who commit suicide usually do so because they can't see another way out of a painful situation, Carver said. Frequent and longer deployments add yet more burden, especially on relationships, he said.

"We've looked pretty closely at all the various factors involved in Soldier suicide - failed relationships, this long war," said Chaplain Carver, "yet the morale of our Soldiers is as high as it's ever been because they sense the importance of their mission down-range and they look out for one another."

Still, Soldiers in-theater need to be aware and in-tune with their fellow Soldiers, he cautioned

"You might notice alterations in personal behavior or emotional changes in attitude that are just very different from how you know that person," he said. "If you sense something is wrong, one of the greatest things you can do with your battle buddy is say, 'Hey, how are you doing?' Begin to probe. That may open an opportunity for that Soldier to express what's going on in his life

"As you begin to care for your buddy, you may realize he or she has issues you can't handle yourself, so the next step is to

take the time to ensure they're given proper care, which is where we as chaplains come in," Carver said. "Soldiers should physically escort troubled buddies to a chaplain who is trained in suicide prevention and takes care of the soul of our Soldiers and Family members."

Not all Wounds are Visible

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional or Call Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647

If the chaplain can't help, the struggling Soldier will be provided treatment from community counseling and the medical community.

Carver pointed out that with the operational tempo of the Army and the associated stresses it places on Soldiers and their relationships with loved ones, suicide prevention is not just a one-week effort.

"As the chief of chaplains and the senior pastor of the Army, my greatest concern is that we watch out for one another and take care of one another," Carver said. "That's the beauty of the Army community because we're all in this together. Every Soldier and every Family member is important ... everyone in the Army matters."

Ask the doc: Prescription for healthy life Why it so difficult to quit smoking

Story by **DR. ELAINE PRICE**

Bayne-Jones Army Community

Every year, more preventable deaths occur from tobacco usage than from any other cause. Aside from illnesses caused by smoking, it is estimated that secondhand smoke exposure increases the risk of heart attack and stroke from 20 to 50 percent, and more than 60 percent of children hospitalized with respiratory illness have been exposed to secondhand smoke in the home.

Tobacco addiction occurs when nicotine rewires the brain to reinforce the pleasure it perceives every time a person smokes. Addiction may involve coexisting emotional dependence, such as depression, anxiety or poor coping skills.

skills.

Frequent alcohol usage, having peers that smoke, concerns over weight gain, and lack of financial support in cessation therapies may discourage tobacco users from quitting. For some, tobacco use is enjoyable and they simply don't want to stop.

For those interested in quitting, many quit aids are available through Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital resources. Nicotine replacements, such as gum and patches, are available without prescription; however, many insurance plans will assist a patient in purchasing these. Prescription antidepressants are used to reduce nicotine withdrawal symptoms and treat emotion-

al aspects involved with the habit. Varenicline (Chantix) helps block the self-rewarding addiction circuit in the brain to stop the craving cycle. Other modalities include tapering, cold turkey and hypnotism, but success rates with these collectively are less than 15 percent.

The patches and gum may be used separately or together. The patch is applied to the trunk of the body over thick, hairless skin in the morning, and removed before bedtime to avoid unpleasant side effects, such as nightmares.

The gum is used as needed during the day for cravings; instead of chewing it like bubble gum, a piece is placed in the mouth and bitten until a strong peppery or tingly taste begins, then "parked" between the gum and the cheek to

absorb.

Antidepressants such as buproprion can be taken daily for about two weeks before tapering, beginning nicotine replacement or going cold turkey.

Varenicline (Chantix) is the first drug designed specifically for tobacco cessation. It is prescribed as a

tapered starter pack, working from 0.5 mg of nicotine once daily to 1 mg twice daily over the course of a week. This is continued for a total of 12 weeks. Tobacco usage is stopped by the end of the first week, without nicotine replacement. Up to a 45 percent success rate has been reported among patients who tolerated the therapy.

Smokers cessation classes are available monthly through the patient preventative health service, which enrolls patients in receiving free or reduced cost quit aids from the BJACH pharmacy. Anyone wishing to quit is strongly encouraged to speak with a for tips and recommendations on choosing a quit date, preparations to make before quitting and other advice.

For more information, visit

- American Lung Association www.lungusa.org
- National Cancer Institute www.cancer.gov/cancer topics/tobacco
- Patient resource site www.quitnet.com
- www.ahrq.gov/consumer/index.html #smoking

County offers smoking cessation classes

Harford County Health Department

The Harford County Health Department encourages smokers to participate in the annual Great American Smokeout.

Smokers can call the cessation specialist to learn about the Health Department's Free Stop Smoking Classes that are held throughout the county. The classes include developing a quit smoking plan, learning stress management techniques and discussing relapse prevention

niques and discussing relapse prevention.

Nicotine patches, lozenges and gum are

available at no charge to those participants who qualify. All locations are wheelchair accessible.

In addition to the Stop Tobacco Classes, smokers can call the Maryland 1-800-Quit-Now to speak to a certified quit coach who will offer techniques on quitting smoking as well as providing free nicotine replacement therapy. Quit coaches are available from 8 a.m. until midnight seven days a week.

For more information on the Health Department Stop Tobacco Classes, call 410-638-8405 or visit www.harfordcountyhealth.com.

CFC

From front page

in both men and women, claiming the lives of an estimated 160,390 Americans this year. Cigarette smoking is by far the most important risk factor for lung cancer.

In the United Stated, tobacco use is responsible for nearly one in five deaths, taking approximately 438,000 lives each year. A nationwide survey of former and current smokers released by the American Cancer Society found that 90 percent of former smokers and 69 percent of current smokers who have tried to quit smoking at least once did so to reduce their risk of cancer.

"We know that the combination of a smoke-free community and smoking cessation support is critical in helping smokers quit and stay tobacco-free, and in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. The Great American Smokeout is a tremendous resource for members of the general public interested in ending their use of tobacco products, and our Web site and Quitline actually put some of the tools people need to

quit right in front of them," Martin said.

Since 1976, the third Thursday in November has marked the Great American Smokeout, spotlighting the health dangers of tobacco use and the importance of quitting smoking to improve individual health and promote better, safer communities. The annual campaign has expanded to include more candid dialogue about the importance of protecting Americans from exposure to deadly secondhand smoke via comprehensive smoke-free laws.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

"For those employees interested in contributing to the society through the Combined Federal Campaign, the number in the Contributor's Guide is 10570, on page 16," said Pete Leon Guerrero, CFC chairman.

For information about cancer, call 24 hours day, seven days a week 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

DoD, VA announce 'Recovery Coordinators' for Wounded Warriors and their Families

The Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs signed an agreement Oct. 31 to provide "federal recovery coordinators" who will ensure life-long medical and rehabilitative care services and other federal benefits are provided to seriously wounded, injured and ill active duty service members, veterans and their Families.

place one of the top recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

"This agreement will help ensure our nation's wounded warriors and their Families receive the care they need and deserve at the right time, right place, and by the right person across the continuum from recovery through to their reintegration into their com-The agreement puts into munities," said Michael L. Dominguez, principal deputy under secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Under this agreement the Warriors, co-chaired by former first group of federal recovery

Sen. Robert Dole and former coordinators will be provided by VA in coordination with DoD and will be assigned to select military treatment facilities throughout the nation. They will support existing military service and veteran programs and care providers by coordinating needed services between DoD and VA and state and private and voluntary organizations, while serving as the ultimate life-long resource for wounded, ill and injured and their Families who may have concerns about federal

> services or benefits. Job announcements for the

new positions have been post- at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; rehabilitation to reintegration ed, with the first 10 federal recovery coordinators scheduled to be hired by Dec. 1. Plans call for the new employees to be trained and in place at the military's major health care facilities during January 2008.

The first 10 coordinators will work at military health care facilities and at any other locations where patients are later assigned. They will be located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.; the Brooke Army Medical Center and the Naval Medical Center Balboa in San Diego. Additional recovery coordinators will be added in the future as needs are determined.

The coordinators will have a

background in social services or

nursing and will work closely with the clinical and non-clinical case management teams to develop and execute federal individual recovery plans. Those plans, developed for the severely wounded, injured

or ill, specify what services are

needed across the continuum

of care, from recovery through

to civilian life. The coordinators also will work closely with Family members to take care of their services and needs.

The coordinators will have access to and support from the DoD's under secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and VA's under secretary for Health, as well as the commanders of facilities where service members and veterans receive treatment.

These federal recovery coordinators are in addition to other programs that have been established by the military services.

Commentary: With heads bowed

JOSEPH F. ABATE

Special contributor

(Author's note to the reader: I wish to offer the reader a collective portrait of our veterans' plight while homeless, and I wish to describe their authentic and personal dignity while they are in this new insidious war they are confronting within themselves each day. I hope my story

will make the readers think of them differently

and proudly and with heads bowed.)

A new day begins at daybreak at 6:30 a.m. with lights on at the Welcome One Shelter in Riverside. A shelter guest's memory of past cold nights with winds howling outside of a tent's flap reminds the guest of the harshness and the unforgiving nature of the wintry cold woods of rural Harford County. It makes many guests remember those terrible

cold winter nights with heads bowed. The saddest of the guests' stories are those that inflict our nation's veterans living in homelessness in Harford County.

These discouraged veterans have new battles raging from within. They rise most days from their bunks at the shelter with heads high and a clear dignity in their walk as they move towards the morning's hot coffee pot. Their bunk beds are neatly made many times after wake up call. And not surprisingly, they can complete all their personal hygiene duties many a morning in less than 10 minutes. They tend to greet others at the shelter with a warm and hearty 'good morning,' and they readily laugh about their crazy day ahead for them as they prepare a 'cup of Joe black to brace their spirits for their new day's struggles. They easily say thank you for breakfast offered to them and they quietly perform all their shelter clean up duties with dedicated effort and efficiency. They work hard at house assigned duties, and they expect the same of the other guests at the shelter.

I have told them thank you for their past service to their country, and they gaze proudly back to me as I walk away with my own head bowed.

If we really try hard we can see these Soldiers, now no longer in uniform, as still brave patriots and heroes for fighting a new foe from within their own minds. The battlefields around military bases in Da Nang; within the forests of Laos and Cambodia; and all the other sentry duties all through the Far and Middle East countries are their past and proud badges of patriotic sacrifice.

Now, we are witnessing their quiet fight with the pain and suffering of a more personal battle campaign. They must learn, accept and engage in treatment for chemical dependencies requiring stoic patience, personal fortitude and a high morale to win on this new battlefield.

We at the shelter try to bolster their morale with daily encouragement so our injured Soldiers have the personal strength to continue their fight until this new, internal enemy surrenders unconditionally.

We encourage our vets to fight on until victorious with our own heads bowed.

We, as Americans, share these veterans' values of honor, duty and patriotism and we, as Christians, pray for their soul's salvation as they suffer in this unforgiving and wicked battle within the mean streets of their homelessness.

The veterans speak of their Families with love in their words but their eyes belie dismay because many of their Family members are now very far, far away from them emotionally.

We can easily see them as brothers and sisters who were once warriors but we now weep as these same brave Soldiers march on through this personal journey of a new harm's way. We realize that much of their new battle must be won from within themselves.

We can offer supplies, encouragement, and home front unwavering support.

As in all battles they must fight for a dream of freedom from their personal pain so they can come home with respect after being 'in country.'

How did we find such brave brothers and sisters to fight these battles? We can offer them support with our own quiet acceptance of them, and we should remember them always with our heads bowed.

The sun also rises on Sunday mornings with the sound of God's disciples seeking lost souls. These good Christians do not come on burros for the guests at the shelter but they do come for them with minivans.

The downtrodden spirits these Sunday mornings brighten with the sight and sound of God's messengers coming into the shelter and announcing in cheerful tongue, "Anyone for Sunday services?' A long file of human flesh rises to weary attention. A blur of dark green, brown and blue winter jackets with tan and black boots march without any unison to the shelter's front door and prepare for contact with the crisp and bitter new morning light. For today, this fine Sunday, they are offered a chance to seek morning sanctuary, prayer, and possible redemption with God's blessing. The vans for Sunday service fill quickly with the shelter guests. The veterans are among the believers going to Sunday services this day.

Their prayers are private but I imagine they are praying for the same protection for the day as they once asked God for while they entered the start of a past war's battle. Then so very long ago, they were armed with weapons that blast and burn and obliterate a target they were told was the enemy of the freedom seeking people of the United States. They had to aim and fire with eyes open and hearts committed to love of home and county.

Now, today on this Sunday, they aim with arms and hands bent in prayer. They now aim many times with eyes closed and they seek God's love and God's blessing to be finally victorious for their own soul's salvation. They enter this new battle on this beautiful Sunday with the same honor, duty and patriotism to both God and country that they offered in past battles.

heads bowed in prayer.

Commentary: Why Veterans Day?

WALTER H. NAYLOR JR.

Special contributor

We assemble on Veterans Day to pay our humble respects to those whose deeds enable us to continue our lives, our freedoms and the pursuit of happiness that we all enjoy.

I would like to highlight some of the major conflicts of our nation's past. During the Revolutionary War the nation's population was approximately three and one half million. Two hundred thousand served in this nation's armed forces; a percentage of 5.7 percent of the population.

During the American Civil War 2,803,300 were enrolled in the Union Army, 110,070 died in combat. 249,458 died of non combat deaths, 275,175 were wounded for a total of 634,703 casualties. This was to preserve the union and ensure that we do not live by a double standard.

During world War I the nation's population was 103 million. 4,743,000 served in the nation's armed forces; a percentage of 4.6 percent of the population.

During World War II the nation's population was 134 million. 16,353,000 served in the nation's armed forces; a percentage of 12.2 percent of the population.

During the Korean War the nation's population was 152 million. 5,764 served in the nation's armed forces; a percentage of 3.5 percent of the population.

During the Vietnam War the nation's population was 205 million. 8,744,000 served in this nation's armed forces; a percentage of 4.3 percent of the population.

During the first Gulf War the nation's population was 260 million. 2,750,000 served in the nation's armed forces; a percentage of 1.1 percent of the population.

As of Memorial Day in the Global War on Terrorism, the total killed in action was 3,640. Possibly on this day another American has given their all.

It is also important to remember peace keeping and humanitarian missions like the Dominican Republic during the 60's: 59 KIA; Grenada, 19 KIA; Beirut, Lebanon, 241 KIA; Panama, 40 KIA; Somalia, 8 KIA; and the U.S.S. Cole, 17 KIA.

The percentages not available are how many civilians provided support during these

A famous quote made by the Prime Minister of England during the Battle of Britain in World War II is applicable to this nation's history - "Never have so many owed so much to so few--" a band of brothers.

No one likes to fight. Someone has to know how. Freedom is not free.

(Editor's note: Author is a retired U.S. Marine Corps first sergeant, and served August 1964 through August 1994.)

letter to readers:

Dear Heroes and Fellow Americans,

I'd like to take this time to thank all those heroes we have in our presence every day.

I tip my hat to the grandfathers and grandmothers, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends, and forefathers who served in past wars and conflicts and continue to serve today to provide the everyday freedom many of us take for granted.

We think of this as a new world we live in, one of terrorism and civil unrest, but it isn't much different than any other time in history.

We talk of the heroes at Ground Zero and the Pentagon but seem to forget the many heroes who have served and given their lives to keep this country and the world free.

Over the centuries this world has come under attack from many nations and groups who have threatened our sense of freedom but have been driven back by these heroes.

The next time you write out a check for your car that provides you transportation, your house that supplies you cover, your groceries that feed your Family, the presents you will buy at Christmas, remember the many heroes that have given their lives and part of themselves so you have the freedom to do that.

The next time you walk down the street and see a grandfather, a grandmother, someone fight-Now, they begin this personal battle with ing for the cause of military veterans, or a past or present active duty member, remember that they

have and are fighting for your freedom.

Stop them and tell them "Thank you" and let them know you appreciate everything they have done and are doing for you and your Family.

A Soldier past and present doesn't need much, we have lived in mud holes where receiving a letter from fellow Americans has driven us to move on against unbelievable odds or served in faraway lands away from our families when the only thing that kept us going was the freedom that we knew we were bringing to the world.

As a retired member of the United States armed forces I feel ashamed that I have taken advantage of these heroes over the years and thought only of myself and my Family and not taken the time to thank these heroes. I know I can't but I would like to shake the hand of all of these heroes so that they know they have not been forgotten.

Remember the easiest two words in the English language to say are "Thank you." It is also uncanny that these two simple words hold the most meaning and can bring a smile to even the most weathered face.

As you walk down the street of the greatest nation in the world extend a warm hand and a "Thank you" to one (more would be better) of these heroes.

Sincerely,

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dan Davis Proud American and retired member of the United States Armed Forces

Shades of Green AFRC salutes veterans

MARGARET MCKENZIE

FMWRC Public Affairs

Shades of Green, an Armed Forces Recreation Center on Walt Disney World, is offering all military veterans an opportunity to vacation on the resort during the months of January and September as part of a "Salute to our Veterans" program.

"I am really impressed and proud to be eligible to use this vacation resort," said Nancy Dreussi, unit administrative technician for U.S. Army Reserves, Company A, 256th Combat Support Hospital in Blacklick, Ohio.

"As a veteran of active duty regular Army and someone who has been deployed overseas to a hostile area as an Army Reservist, this is an awesome 'thank you.' It is great to be able to get away with the Family, especially after having been gone from them for such a long time."

Located on Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., the Shades of Green is one of five Armed Forces Recreation Centers in the world. The AFRC's

are self-supporting, and provide luxury accommodations at a fraction of the cost of similar facilities. Room rates are on a sliding scale based on rank or grade, and reservations are normally restricted to active-duty or retired DoD employees.

Shades of Green sits between the Palm and Magnolia golf courses, two of Disney's PGA-certified courses, and provides Soldiers and Families all the comforts and benefits of a resort vacation. Situated on 30 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds with cascading waterfalls and lush tropical gardens, the resort boasts 586 guest rooms with 11 Family and junior suites, two heated swimming pools, a hot tub and a children's pool.

Guests are provided transportation to all Walt Disney World attractions and early entry into select venues inside the Magic Kingdom. Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park are just minutes away. Discount tickets are available to all area attractions.

"We owe our Soldiers and veterans the opportunity to enjoy the same quality of life they've pledged to defend," said Rich Gorman, chief operating officer of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, which runs the resorts. "These AFRC's are one of the many ways we show our Soldiers we're here for them and their Families."

While Shades of Green can assist honorably discharged veterans year-round in acquiring discounted accommodations in neighboring resorts and hotels, the "Salute to Our Veterans" program allows veterans to book rooms at Shades of Green Resort for the first time. Space is limited; early reservations are recommended.

For more information or to make room reservations, call Shades of Green, 1-407-827-8387; visit the Web site, www. shadesofgreenvets.org; or contact the APG Leisure Travel Office, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

New law lets veterans salute flag in civilian clothing

A bill presented by U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and service members not in uniform to salute the flag (S.1877), was passed by unanimous consent and took effect July 25.

The previous law (U.S. Code Title 4, Chapter 1) stated that veterans and service members not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. Unfortunately, (the former) law left confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. (The new) legislation clarifies this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the U.S. who have served in the military and remain as role models to other citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

Dawning of a new era in APG's 90-year history



Silent Samaritans tend hero's grave on APG range



A group of APG employees place an American flag at the grave of John A. Osborn, a color bearer for the 2nd Maryland Regiment who died at Antietam, each Veterans and Memorial Day.

Story by YVONNE JOHNSON APG News

In a secure area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, for several years now, a group of employees have attentively cared for the grave of a young Soldier who was a casualty of the battle of Antietam, the historic clash between Union and Confederate troops in Sharpsburg, Md., in 1862.

The grave is in a cemetery in an area formerly known as Michaelsville, about three-quarters of a mile from where the Civil War-era church known as the Garrison Chapel stands, according to Joe Ondek, an engineering technician and environmentalist who has spent more than 40 years caring for the proving ground's wildlife, first as a government civilian and now as a contractor. Ondek said he knows the area and the circumstances well.

The group seeks no recognition for their self-appointed mission, according to Ondek. The members were familiar with the cemetery as they often drove past it during their daily missions but it wasn't until they took a closer look, one day, that they realized one of the occupants died at Antietam, he said.

"They decided then and there that



Photos courtesy of JOE ONDEK, CONTRACTOR

Private Cemetery P-3, located in a secure area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, includes the grave of John A. Osborn, a casualty of the battle of Antietam, with flag.

just like every veteran's grave is not be determined what Osborn's marked with a flag on Memorial Day, this Soldier deserved a flag too," Ondek said.

Every year since then, the group's members have seen to it that a flag is placed at the Soldier's grave every Memorial and Veterans Day.

The Soldier's name was John A. Osborn and his marker, in the area officially known as Private Cemetery P-3, states that he was the color bearer for the 2nd Maryland Regiment and that he was wounded Sept. 17, 1862, and died Sept. 21, 1862 at the age of 19 years, 7 months and 5 days.

Osborn's parents, Theodore H. and Adalisa M. Osborn, are buried nearby as are his brothers, one an unnamed infant, and the others, George R. Osborn, who died in 1853 at age 7 and Benjamin T. Osborn, who died in 1854, also at age 7.

Historians call the day John A. Osborn was wounded the bloodiest single day in American history as it yielded almost 23,000 casualties.

Osborn's unit, under the leadership of Lt. Col. J. Eugene Duryea, participated in repeated assauts on a bridge over Antietam Creek which became known as Burnside Bridge, named after Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside who led the IX Corps to which Osborne's unit was assigned. It could

wounds were or how his remains were returned to the Aberdeen area. It is known that care for the wounded was so horribly inadequate during those days following the battle that his commander, Duryea, resigned in protest over the treatment of his troops.

The inscription on Osborn's tombstone offers some insight. It reads: 'The flag he held he clung to most. He fell like a Soldier he fell at his post, The stars that gem the azure fold, May cease awhile to shine, But tremble not the arm that holds, The flagstaff is devine.'

Ondek said the group holds no meetings and that the task of placing the flag is unassigned.

it's the right thing to do," he said.

Col. John Rooney, commander of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, which maintains the area, once visited the site, Ondek said, and was surprised to learn of the group's annu-

"I told him that this Soldier gets a flag every year just like any other veteran and that I thought it was kind of a poetic thing they wanted to do," Ondek said.

He said Rooney replied that it was a damn good deed."

"It's not a secret group," Ondek

said. "It's just a group of people who make it happen when it needs to happen.

'It builds character in people when they do things like this," he said. "And the beauty of that character is seen in those serving our nation today. Our youngsters are just as good as they were more than a hundred years ago,' he said. "They are all volunteers and the future of this nation."

A former Marine who served in Okinawa from 1959 to 1963, Ondek said he personally thanks every service member he meets.

"I consider it an honor just to shake their hands," he said.

"When I think of that young boy, I think that if I could talk to him, I'd "It's just a mutual wish to do ask what this place was like before something for this veteran because APG was here," he added. "I wonder how many stars were on the flag he was carrying, and how it would make him feel to know there are fifty on the flag at his grave.

> "I appreciate the fact that colonists worked these lands and that instead of trees there were corn and wheat and barley fields," he said.

"I guess I just love the history of this place. This was the site of Old Baltimore, and it's as important to Maryland as Williamsburg is to Virginia. The best part is it's protected. It's just a beautiful piece of property that has remained as it should.'